

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SEOUL 04834 250932Z

17

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 DRC-01 /091 W

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R 250825Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5049

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 4834

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PINS, KS

SUBJECT: INTERROGATION OF NEWSMAN

REUTERS SEOUL BUREAU CHIEF LEE SI-HO, KOREAN NATIONAL, WAS TAKEN IN FOR QUESTIONING BY KCIA AFTERNOON JULY 24, RELEASED SAME EVENING. HE HAD BEEN ONLY KOREAN NEWSMAN TO ATTEND SMALL IMPROMPTU PRESS CONFERENCE BY BISHOP CHI AT WHICH BISHOP HANDED OUT WRITTEN STATEMENT CRITICAL OF GOVERNMENT. SEVERAL AMERICAN CORRESPONDENTS WERE THERE.

USIS DEPUTY PAO VISITED REUTHERS OFFICE MORNING JULY 25 AND TALKED TO LEE. HE SAID HE HAD NOT BEEN PHYSICALLY HARMED BUT HAD BEEN WARNED THAT MERE POSSESSION OF CHI STATEMENT WAS CRIMINAL OFFENSE. AFTER LENGTHY QUESTIONING, HE WAS REQUIRED TO SIGN USUAL KCIA STATEMENT THAT HE WOULD NOT DISCUSS WITH ANYONE ANYTHING CONCERNING HIS DETENTION.

USIS DISCUSSED ARREST WITH BRITISH EMBASSY SHORTLY AFTER LEE WAS PICKED UP. THEY WERE UNAWARE OF INCIDENT, SAID THEY WOULD CABLE LONDON TO NOTIFY REUTERS HOME OFFICE BUT WERE UNDECIDED AS TO WHAT, IF ANYTHING, BEYOND THAT THAT THEY WOULD DO. SUBSEQUENT RELEASE OF LEE MADE MATTER ACADEMIC.

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PASS USIA.
HABIB

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NNN

Message Attributes

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